

**CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL**

# **NEWSLETTER**



**SPRING 2015**

**K**nowsley Borough Council is not allowed by Central

Government to increase its Council Tax by more than 2% per annum. So far Knowsley has met this obligation each year by cost cutting of personnel and some facilities. These cuts, until now, have largely gone unnoticed by the electors within the Borough as there have been no appreciable cuts in the services supplied by Knowsley. Unfortunately, these cuts have met a buffer and to achieve the desired income v expenditure, cuts are now being made in the services provided. This will not affect rubbish collection, street cleansing or other statutory obligations but will affect the level of support given upkeep of recreational areas.

Knowsley has since 1972 met the costs of upkeep of the Pasture (Recreational Area) but can now no longer to do so, and if we wish to keep the high standard of this area, the cost of upkeep will have to be met by the Parish.

Also, due to government legislation we are bound to give our employees the opportunity of contributing to a retirement pension and our Clerk has indicated her wish to do so.

## **Precept 2015 - 2016**

To meet these extra costs on the Parish, the precept has had to be increased from £13,845 to £21,252. This is an enormous percentage increase (51%) but amounts to an increase of 31p per week per Band-D household. The



general view of these costs have been carefully considered by the Parish Council and the view of the village in a straw poll. There is no scope for savings on this amount, other than to allow the Pasture to be untended – this was considered unacceptable by villagers and Parish Council. Also, the increased costs will be directly spent for the benefit of the Village in maintaining the Pasture as a recreational area, and if not on the Parish Precept the cost would have been added to the Borough Council Tax.

Costs for maintaining the Pasture were put out to tender and that considered giving the best value for money accepted. The service given to the Pasture will be reviewed at 3 monthly intervals, but your observations would be gratefully received.

We are not the only Town or Parish Council affected, Halewood, Whiston and Knowsley Village Councils are similarly affected, but are

meeting some of the extra costs in the first year from reserves – Cronton does not have the luxury of those monetary reserves.

**Will Cook**  
**Chair, Cronton Parish Council**



### **CRONTON PARISH COUNCIL**

#### **Address**

Cronton Parish Council, 7 Hampton Drive, Cronton, Knowsley, Merseyside WA8 5BZ

#### **Chairman**

Will Cook 0151 424 4612

#### **Vice-Chairman**

Shaun Cooper 0151 424 6006

#### **Councillors**

Denis Bray 0151 424 2908

John Foran 0151 424 5248

Pat Green 0151 424 5109

Ged McGann 0151 424 0770

Geoff Pentin 0151 423 0038

Dave Rostance 0151 424 4799

Ian Watson 07770 395599

**Parish Clerk** — Vitti Osborne

Answer Phone No. 0151 420 0235

**email :**

council@cronton49.freemove.co.uk

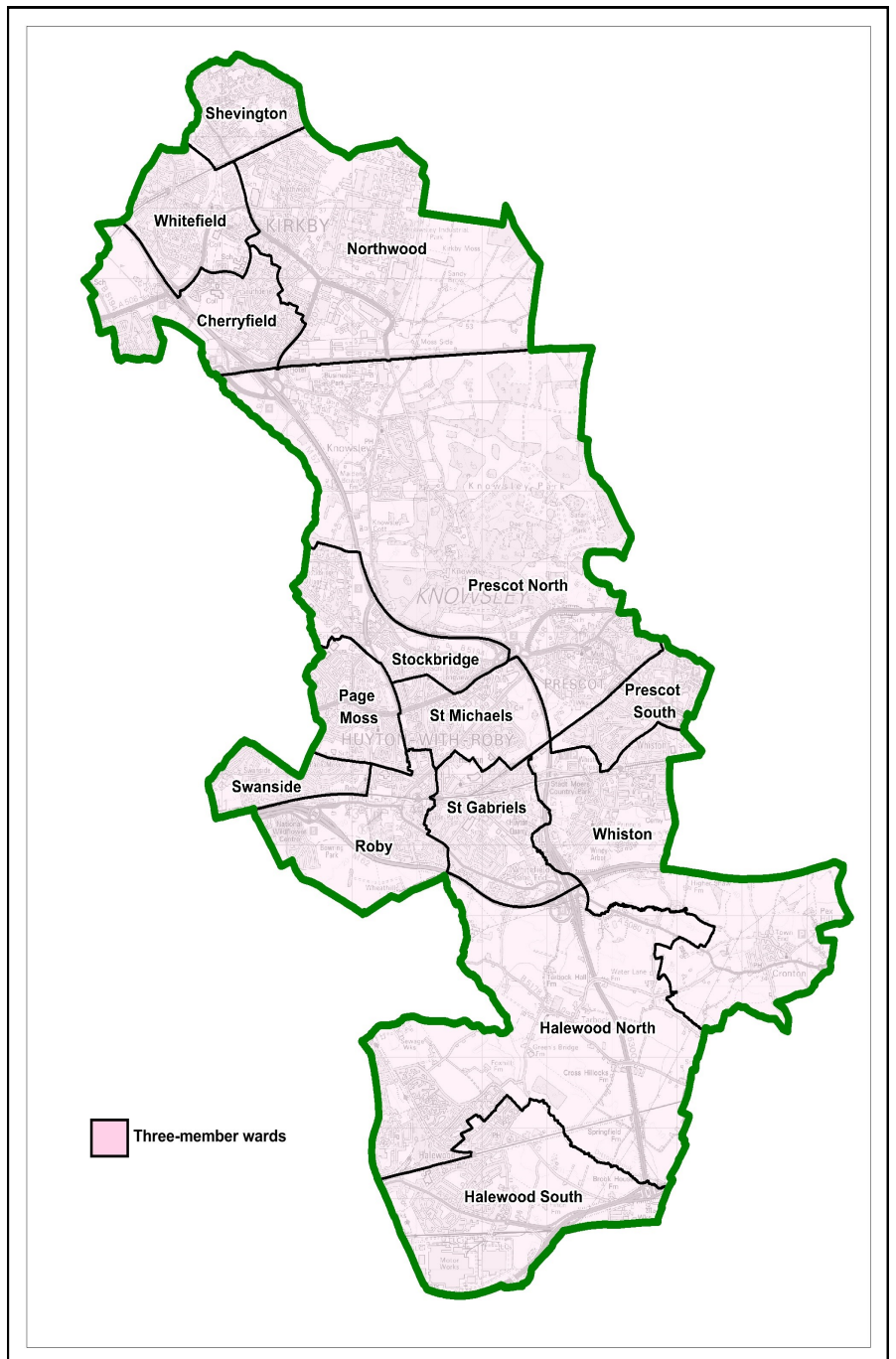
# Boundary Review Consultation

**K**nowsley Borough Council has formally asked the Boundary Commission to review the ward boundaries within Knowsley. This is with a view to reducing the number of Ward Councillors from 63 to 45 Councillors so that each Councillor represents an average of 6000 electors. This is in essence a cost cutting exercise as our current representation is for about 4500 electors per councillor.

Our Ward, Whiston will still have 3 Councillors but North Whiston and South Whiston with Cronton will be combined and be called Whiston – each councillor in Whiston will have an increased workload from 4500 to 6000 electors giving a saving on expenses to Knowsley for a total of 18 councillors and still (theoretically) allows 3 members per ward to adequately discharge their roles. These effects are scheduled to come into effect in the local elections of 2016. The external boundaries of Knowsley remain unaffected.

On the representation front, Whiston will still have its 3 Ward Councillors but their work load will be significantly increased by a factor of 40% impacting on the attention they can give to a specific area.

Another aspect is that Cronton will not be named as part of the Ward and **the new Ward will just be called Whiston**. Your Parish Council think that this is unfair and made representations to the Local Government Boundary Commission to this effect. **The new ward should be called Whiston and Cronton** and this has historically always been so and can truly reflect the interests and identities of Cronton. The Cronton area is a large chunk of Whiston, the interactive maps are posted on the Commission's consultation portal at: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/node/3670>. The portal



also allows visitors to submit comments and alternative proposals. **The consultation closes on 6 April 2015.**

**Will Cook**  
**Chair, Cronton Parish Council**



Correspondence relating to the review and consultation responses should be addressed to:

Review Officer (Knowsley)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
76-86 Turnmill Street  
London  
EC1M 5LG

Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

# COMMUNITY CENTRE

We would like to up-date the local community on various happenings at the Centre.

The electrics have been rewired and certificated and the bar-lounge has been up-graded and decorated as have the external doors.

There are a variety of groups using the Centre now, of which you are more than welcome to join. For example:-

- Pilates
- Circuit training
- Theatre dance for children
- Lace making
- Weight watchers
- Karate
- Indoor Bowls from October – April
- Crown Green Bowling from April- September

There are a number of vacant hours if you would like to hire the Centre.

As a voluntary organisation, we are always looking for more volunteers to help keep the Centre thriving.

Why not pop into the Centre on a

Wednesday or Thursday evening from 8.30 pm for a drink in the Bar at prices that are very reasonable.

Following the success of the Senior Citizens Christmas Party last year, we would very much like to continue with this. We will obviously need to carry out some fund raising events and this is where you can help.

Please contact Chris Birtwistle on 424 0693 for further information on any of the above.



## CRONTON GALA

SATURDAY 13 JUNE

11.30 am—4.00 pm

On The Pasture

\* Fun for all the family

\* Side shows

\* Fairground rides

\* Exhibits

\* Refreshments

\* Beer tent etc

Volunteers required to help on the day

Contact Ian 07770 395599

for details

### TO BECOME A COUNCILLOR

#### LOCAL ELECTIONS - THURSDAY 7 MAY 2015

There are around 9,000 parish, town, community and neighbourhood councils (local councils) representing around 16 million people across England. They form the most local level of government and cover many rural and urban areas.

Role of a local council - represents the local community, delivers service to meeting local needs and strives to improve quality of life and community well being.

For more information, visit The Electoral Commission and National Association of Local Councils websites, and look on our notice board for further details.

### Cronton Neighbourhood Network

It is a partnership comprising of representatives from all sectors of the community who have an interest in and commitment to the area of benefit.

#### Next Meeting

Tuesday 7 April 2015 at 7.00 pm

Cronton Parish Offices,  
7 Hampton Drive.



## Cronton Pathways

### Spring Clean-Up Day

Come and help KEEP CRONTON TIDY on our Spring Litter-Pick

FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

10.00am - 1.00pm

(or as much of that time you can spare)

Meet at Holy Family Club at 10.00am

Bags, gloves, litter-pickers provided





precept 2015/16	2014/15		2015/16
	original budget	Forecast outturn	Forecast
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	£	£	£
Common investment income	47	47	47
Bank interest	10	10	10
Office rentals	30	30	30
VAT refund	260	285	229
<b>Total</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>316</b>

PAYMENTS			
Core			
Council Insurance	1,169	1,120	1,232
Non domestic rate	475	0	475
Clerk's salary SCP25	8,308	8,572	8,717
NI Employer's contribution	120	78	120
Clerk's Pension Employer's contribution	0	0	2,310
Office Cleaner	381	381	381
Postage	115	77	115
Stationery	300	48	252
Photocopying (toner, newsletters)	350	305	350
Audit (External + internal)	450	190	450
Clerks expenses	60	60	60
Electricity + extra meetings, police on duty, agency sessions and local groups	1,000	600	1,000
Water Rates	263	192	263
Telephone (Broadband/tel package)	432	227	350
Website	175	122	175
Elections	600	0	600
Chairman's allowance	200	200	200
Councillors Expenses	150	0	150
Publicity & Advertising	100	0	100
Affiliations	336	327	353
Maintenance			
Premises (Council - Interior & Exterior)	550	385	550
The Pasture ground maintenance	0	0	6,000
Non-Core			
Members & Clerk's training	250	0	250
Donations	950	800	950
Remembrance Day	52	42	52
Christmas	700	341	500
Hall hiring	165	0	150
Housekeeping	80	61	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,731</b>	<b>14,128</b>	<b>26,205</b>
<b>Net payments</b>	<b>17,384</b>	<b>13,756</b>	<b>25,889</b>

RESERVES			
Clerk's Pension Provision	1,000	1,000	0
Reserve for ear-marked items	4,196	78	4,028
General Reserve	4,534	1,202	3,251
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,730</b>	<b>2,280</b>	<b>7,279</b>

<b>Forecast net payments 2015/16</b>	£25,889
Reserve	£7,279
<b>Total revenue resources required</b>	£33,168
Less: estimated starting balance 2015/16	-£10,789
Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant	-£1,127
<b>Precept required 2015/16</b>	<b>£21,252</b>

WARD COUNCILLORS (Whiston South including Cronton)	
Terry Byron	0151 208 3281
Tony Newman	0151 292 4884
David Williams	0151 430 0607

### Coming Council Meetings



At Cronton Parish Council Office, commencing at 7.00 pm (Meeting notices will be posted on the notice board)

**Monday 30 March 2015**

Council Meeting

**Monday 13 April 2015**

General Purposes and Environment Committee

Finance and Policy Committee

**Monday 11 May 2015**

Parish Meeting (all residents)

Annual Council Meeting

**Monday 1 June 2015**

Committee Meetings

**Monday 22 June 2015**

Council Meeting

**Monday 13 July 2015**

Committee Meetings



**The press and public are welcome to attend all Council meetings and will be invited to speak at the public participation session.**



In an emergency call **999**  
For everything else call **101**

Environment  
Fly-tipping  
Rubbish  
Helpline **0151 443 2400**



Knowsley Council

**Reporting anti-social behaviour**  
Call **0151 443 2000** in confidence,  
Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm and  
Saturday 10am-12:30pm.